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- The Philadelphia Citizen

JUSTIN DiBERARDINIS
FOR CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

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GAME OF GROANS

Labeled a "disaster" by critics, "GoT" fans were left wanting more — and better. 4, 5 & 12

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8 THINGS TO KNOW

Magic Johnson: Lakers GM Pelinka was backstabber

The bombshell came on the day Frank Vogel was to be introduced as head coach.

Rob Pelinka, general manager of the Los Angeles Lakers, talks to Earvin Magic Johnson. GETTY IMAGES

On the day the Los Angeles Lakers were scheduled to introduce their new head coach, a member of the old guard added a fresh dash of drama.

Former team president Magic Johnson, whose jersey hangs from the Staples Centers rafters, said Monday it was general manager Rob Pelinka's backstabbing ways that led to his resignation in April.

"Things got going in the right direction. Then I started hearing, 'Magic, you're not working hard enough. Magic's not in the office,'" Johnson told ESPN in an interview on "First Take" on Monday. "So people around the Lakers' office was telling me Rob — Rob Pelinka — was saying things and I didn't like this being said behind my back. That I wasn't in the office enough and on and on.

"So I started getting calls from my friends outside of basketball, saying those things now were said to them. Not just in the Lakers' office any more. Outside of basketball, in the media and so on. People have to remember something. Being in this business 40 years, I have allies, I've got friends everywhere.

"Then, I had to monitor the brothers. Joey and Jesse, the Buss brothers, wanted more involvement, more power. I said I didn't mind doing that. They're good guys. Also I sat them down and said I'm going to help you guys mature and get better. They felt they should have been in powerful positions, whether that's general manager or president."

Joey and Jesse Buss are the youngest children of late owner Jerry Buss, who died in 2013.

> **"I said, 'I'm going to be in and out. Is that OK?' I said, 'Do I have the power to make decisions?' She said yes."**
>
> Magic Johnson

Johnson said the straw that broke the camel's back was a debate over coach Luke Walton's status.

"I wanted to fire Luke Walton," Johnson said, adding that ownership granted approval to fire Walton, then backpedaled. "Luke's a great guy. I said we need to get a better coach. Now I've got [team vice president] Tim [Harris] involved. I don't have the power that I thought I had to make the decisions. I told them, 'When it's not fun for me, when I don't have the decision-making power that I thought I had, I've got to step aside.'"

Johnson abruptly resigned on April 9, minutes before the team's regular-season finale, saying he hadn't told anyone — including controlling owner and team president Jeanie Buss, with whom he's close — about his decision in advance.

"When we sat down and negotiated, I said, 'I can't give up all my businesses. Is that OK?'" Johnson said. "I said, 'I'm going to be in and out. Is that OK?' I said, 'Do I have the power to make decisions?' She said yes."

Walton ultimately was fired and quickly hired as head coach of the Sacramento Kings.

Frank Vogel was named head coach of the Lakers last week, and he will sit alongside Pelinka at his introduction Monday afternoon.

Pelinka claimed Johnson's role and now reports directly to Jeanie Buss after previously reporting to Johnson. Buss considered various options, including filling Johnson's job, but decided to rely on Pelinka. Kurt Rambis remains as a special adviser.

Johnson's decision stunned star forward LeBron James, along with the rest of the team.

Jeanie Buss issued a statement at the time saying the team would "work in a measured and methodical fashion to make the right moves for the future of our organization."

Pelinka, 49, was an agent for many years — representing Kobe Bryant, among others — before the Lakers hired him in February 2017. He and Johnson replaced former GM Mitch Kupchak. His contract has three years remaining.
REUTERS

Alabama cops arrest suspect in shooting of officer

2 A man sought for the shooting death of an Auburn, Alabama, police officer and the wounding of two others was arrested without incident early on Monday after a brief manhunt that had the community on edge, authorities said. Grady Wayne Wilkes, 29, was taken into custody about nine hours after the shooting, which happened on Sunday night when police responded to a report of a domestic disturbance and were met with gunfire, Auburn Police Chief Paul Register said. "It was relatively uneventful," Register said, describing the arrest at a news briefing. "No one was injured during the arrest of the suspect." Wilkes was charged with capital murder, three counts of attempted murder and third-degree domestic violence, Register said. Investigators are still trying to determine what prompted Wilkes, who served in the military and was dressed in military garb, to open fire on the officers, he said. REUTERS

McGahn to be told not to appear before Congress: NYT

3 President Donald Trump is expected to instruct former White House counsel Don McGahn to defy a congressional subpoena to testify before a U.S. House panel investigating whether Trump illegally obstructed the Russia probe, the New York Times reported on Monday. McGahn figures prominently in the part of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe that examined whether Trump tried to obstruct the investigation into whether the Republican businessman's 2016 presidential campaign colluded with Russia. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Democratic Rep. Jerrold Nadler, chairman of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, last month subpoenaed McGahn to testify before the panel on Tuesday, and has said he would hold the attorney in contempt if he did not show up.
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‘Game of Thrones’ leaves fans sad, mad and wanting more

An actor dressed as Tyrion Lannister poses for photographers. REUTERS IMAGES

Fans react to the final episode of “Game of Thrones” at a watch party in NYC.

Critics called the finale a “disaster ending that fans didn’t deserve.”

Mixed reviews, a stray water bottle and pleas for a spinoff for feisty teen assassin Arya Stark marked the end of “Game of Thrones,” which came to a close on Sunday with one more shocking demise and an unlikely character named as king.

The 80-minute series finale of HBO’s medieval fantasy series proved as divisive as season 8 itself, with the hard-fought Iron Throne burned to the ground and the saga ending in what some called an anticlimax.

USA Today's Kelly Lawler called the finale “a disaster ending that fans didn’t deserve,” adding that it was “hacky; it was cliched.”

Britain’s Radio Times was kinder, with blogger Huw Fullerton writing there were “some bits I liked, one or two I loved, an awful lot that leaves me scratching my head. But I will say, it ended better than I expected given the last two episodes.”

According to review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the finale got 59 percent approval from television critics, compared with 92 percent for the season 8 premiere on April 14.

Television series creators David Benioff and D.B. Weiss were silent on Monday. The executive producers had said they planned to go offline when the finale aired.

“We’ll be in an undisclosed location, turning off our phones and opening various bottles,” Weiss told Entertainment Weekly earlier this year.

Many fans were more upset about the series coming to an end after eight seasons.

“I thought it would be more of a dramatic ending,” health care worker Christine Lethune told Reuters at a viewing party in New York. “I'm mad, I'm mad that this is the last episode. I wish that there was more after this.”

Eagle-eyed fans spotted another modern prop that made its way on camera.

On Sunday, it was a plastic water bottle seen partly hidden behind the boot of character Samwell Tarly. The sighting followed dismay and jokes over the sighting of a stray paper coffee cup glimpsed during episode 4, aired two weeks ago.

HBO last year ordered a prequel, co-written by author George R.R. Martin, that is set thousands of years before the events of “Game of Thrones.”

But on Monday, many fans wanted a sequel based around Arya Stark (Maisie Williams), who is last seen aboard a ship to explore lands unknown.

“Arya was the only good part of season 8. Give us the spinoff,” tweeted Riley McAtee, an associate editor at sports and pop culture website The Ringer.com.

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Here's what's next for the cast of 'Game of Thrones'

GETTY IMAGES

After nearly a decade, "Game of Thrones" has finally come to an end. Although the show is over, the actors aren't going anywhere. A few of the actors are taking a break, whereas others have already started on other projects. Here are a few of the upcoming projects you can spot your favorite cast member working on next.

Sophie Turner On June 7, you can spot Sophie Turner on the big screen reprising her role as Jean Grey in "Dark Phoenix." She is also working on a film called "Broken Soldier," which is all about a soldier suffering from PTSD.

Maisie Williams Arya Stark just launched an app called Daisie, which was created to help connect creatives seeking to work in their industry. Turns out playing mutants is in the Starks' blood and Williams will be starring in "The New Mutants" portraying Rahne Sinclair/Wolfsbane.

Richard Madden Robb Stark will return to the screen as soon as May 31, taking on the role of John Reid in "Rocketman," a film all about Elton John's life.

Lena Headey Cersei Lannister's next film is called "The Flood," which focuses on an immigration officer and an asylum seeker.

Peter Dinklage From lion to eagle, the Hand of the King will be portraying the Mighty Eagle in "The Angry Birds Movie 2."

Nikolaj Coster-Waldau Jaime Lannister's next big film is called "Domino," which is about a Copenhagen police officer seeking justice for his partner's murder. He also is in "Suicide Tourist," about an insurance detective investing a disappearance.

Emilia Clarke Khaleesi will return to the screen again in "Above Suspicion," a film about the first-ever murder conviction of an FBI agent. She can also be spotted during the holiday season in a Christmas rom-com called "Last Christmas."

Gwendoline Christie Brianne of Tarth's next film is called "The Personal History of David Copperfield," which is based on the Charles Dickens novel, where she will be playing Jane Murdstone.

Nathalie Emmanuel From HBO to Hulu, Missandei makes the jump for the remake of "Four Weddings and a Funeral," co-created by Mindy Kaling. She will also be voicing Deet, a character from "The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance."

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Mayor Jim Kenney. ALL GETTY IMAGES

Mayor's office up for grabs in primary election on Tuesday

Other offices have candidates vying for your votes.

NATE HOMAN
letters@metro.us

Voters will head to the polls for municipal primary elections in Pennsylvania on Tuesday, with two major seats to fill.

The Mayor of Philadelphia's office is up for grabs, as is a U.S. House of Representatives seat in a special election.

Democrat Jim Kenney is running for re-election as mayor of the nation's sixth-largest city for a second term against Democrat Alan Butkovitz, former city controller, and state Sen. Anthony Williams. Republican Billy Ciancaglini is running unopposed.

Kenney was recently sued by former Philly Mayor John Street, who says the Kenney administration has illegally overassessed property taxes on Philly homeowners.

In a press release, Street said that as many as 200,000 Philly households may have been overassessed.

"This is the most egregious distortion of the democratic process that I have seen in 50 years," said Street. "No other administration since the enactment of the 1951 Home Rule Charter has had the capacity or the inclination to raise hundreds of millions of real estate tax dollars without a vote of Council. This is the most blatant and flagrant perversion by a modern-day mayor and a clear violation of one of democracy's pillars — taxation without representation."

Kenney's biggest success of yet has been the soda tax. City Council enacted a tax on sweetened soda in January 2017. The 1.5-cents-per-ounce tax, which is levied on distributors, funds pre-kindergarten classes, community schools and Rebuild, a $500 million program to renovate public spaces.

Pennsylvania's primary elections are closed, which means only registered Republicans can vote in Republican primaries and likewise for Democrats. However, all registered voters, regardless of affiliation, may vote in a special election, such as the one for Congress in Pennsylvania's 12th District.

Four Democrats and one Republican are running to finish the final two years in the term of former Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski, who was forced to resign last year after being convicted on federal charges that he traded city contracts for campaign money, according to The Associated Press.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Philadelphia skyline and Ben Franklin Parkway, as seen from the Philadelphia Museum of Art at sunset.

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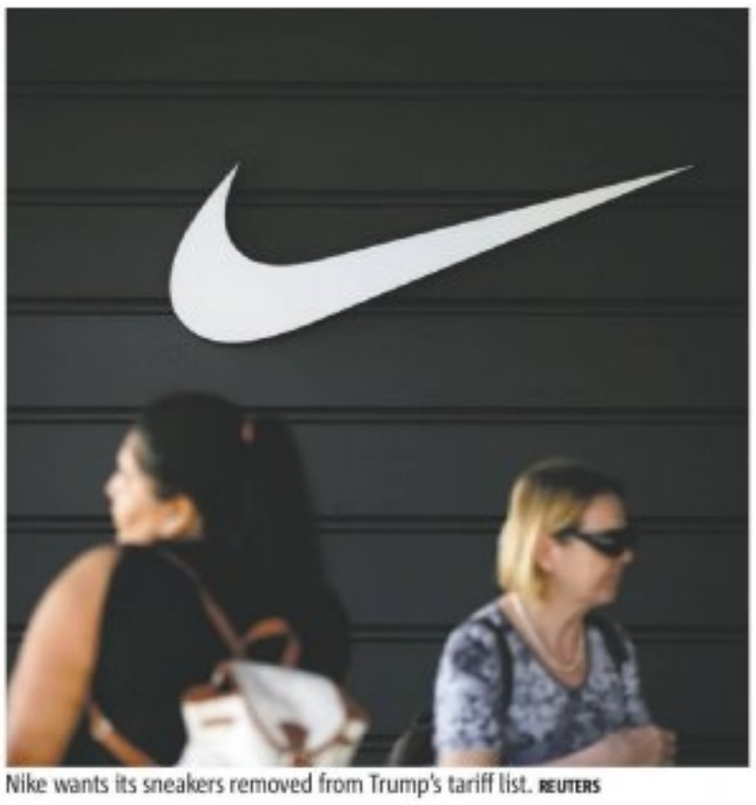
Nike, Under Armour urge Trump to remove footwear from tariff list



Nike wants its sneakers removed from Trump's tariff list. REUTERS

U.S. footwear companies, including Nike and Under Armour, on Monday urged President Donald Trump to remove footwear from the proposed tariffs list on goods imported from China.

"The proposed additional tariff of 25 percent on footwear would be catastrophic for our consumers, our companies, and the American economy as a whole," a group of 173 companies said in a letter.

Trump increased tariffs on $200 billion worth of Chinese imports to 25 percent from 10 percent earlier this month, a move that is expected to raise prices on thousands of products including clothing, furniture and electronics.

Trump is expected to impose 25 percent tariffs on another $300 billion worth of Chinese goods when he meets Chinese President Xi Jinping next month.

"As an industry that faces a $3 billion duty bill every year, we can assure you that any increase in the cost of importing shoes has a direct impact on the American footwear consumer," the companies said.

The letter was also sent to Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and National Economic Council director Larry Kudlow.

The Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA) estimates the hike in tariff would add $7 billion in additional costs for customers every year.

The companies noted that the tariffs on footwear average 11.3 percent and reach rates as high as 67.5 percent. Adding a 25 percent tax increase on top of these tariffs would mean Americans could pay a nearly 100 percent duty on their shoes, the companies said in the letter.

Last week, the world's largest retailer Walmart warned that its prices would increase due to higher tariffs on goods from China and that the levies were already hurting its furniture business.

Macy's also said that the tariffs, enacted on May 10, do have some impact, particularly on its furniture business. REUTERS

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Nigel Farage and Brexit Party candidates campaign in Newcastle. ALL REUTERS IMAGES

Brexit Party's candidate doused with milkshake during campaign stop

Nigel Farage is the latest anti-E.U. candidate to be targeted with milkshakes.

Nigel Farage, the leader of Britain's Brexit Party, was doused in milkshake by a protester on Monday, the latest anti-E.U. figure to be targeted during campaigning for the European parliament elections.

Farage, one of the leading figures in the campaign for Britain to leave the European Union, was covered in the milkshake at an event in the northern English city of Newcastle.

Shortly after addressing supporters he was hit by a shake thrown by a man in his early 30s, before being escorted away by aides and into a taxi, according to a Reuters witness.

"Sadly some remainers have become radicalized, to the extent that normal campaigning is becoming impossible," Farage tweeted after the incident. "For a civilized democracy to work you need the losers [*sic*] consent, politicians not accepting the referendum result have led us to this."

Farage's newly-formed pro-Brexit party is predicted by opinion polls to win the most support in Britain at the elections later this week, promising to take the country out of the European Union without a deal.

> **"Sadly some remainers have become radicalized, to the extent that normal campaigning is becoming impossible."**
> Nigel Farage, on Twitter

Other anti-E.U. candidates not associated with the Brexit Party have also been targeted by milkshakes in recent weeks.

Farage, a 55-year-old former commodities broker, played an instrumental role in persuading Britain's mainstream political parties to hold a referendum on leaving the European Union in 2016, and then convincing voters to back Brexit during the subsequent campaign.

Britain remains deeply divided over the issue and parliament has been unable to agree when, how or even if the country should leave the bloc.

REUTERS

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TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

the GRUMBLE

sudoku

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7						6		
					7		5	
3	4		7			2		5
8			2		6			1
1		6			9		7	4
	3		1					
		2						9
6		4	8	9		1	3	2

MEDIUM

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	3	8			9			
6	1						3	9
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		3	1					
5			9			7	6	

HARD

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9		1		6	7			
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							9	5
		2	4			1		
			8	9		4		2
	4				5			

READER WRITE-INS:

A BOUQUET OF GRUMBLES

Why do cyclists take their bikes on trains? Isn't that why they have bikes?

Why do some concertgoers whoop and holler like they're at the rodeo? Whatever happened to applause?

Why do cashiers give you your change in folded bills? Does anyone like getting their change like that?

Why do people stare at you like you've got three heads when you ask a subway seat hog to kindly scoot over? Why does the seat hog look at the space he's taking up like he's Columbus discovering a new world?

Just askin'.

— **A.E. Newman**, *Metro US reader*

metro.us/horoscopes

♈ **Aries** A day trip, business meeting or educational pursuit will help you realize what makes you happy.

♉ **Taurus** You can make a positive change to your appearance, position or financial situation, as long as you stay focused.

♊ **Gemini** Don't make promises you cannot keep or rely on someone else to take care of your responsibilities.

♋ **Cancer** Stop waffling and start getting things done. Don't miss out on opportunity because you are reluctant to change.

♌ **Leo** Know your limitations and use your intelligence. Don't take risks that could result in lowered vitality or an injury.

♍ **Virgo** You should copy someone who has a proven track record, but add your own unique thumbprint.

♎ **Libra** Use your head when dealing with people who can influence your life. Don't let anyone push you into something you don't agree with.

♏ **Scorpio** Explore your options, expand your talents and make adjustments that will help you promote what you have to offer.

♐ **Sagittarius** Don't give your secrets away. If you follow through with a plan, it will lead to an opportunity.

♑ **Capricorn** Partnerships are favored. Whether you are dealing with a personal or professional union, it will bring marked improvements.

♒ **Aquarius** Reach out to someone you feel a connection to, or with whom you can work toward something meaningful.

♓ **Pisces** You have life-changing choices to make. Choose to be articulate, precise and detailed. EUGENIA LAST

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LIFESTYLE

ATIBA JEFFERSON

American Football throw out the handbook to find new life on 'LP3'

Singer-songwriter Mike Kinsella talks about the pressure of restarting the iconic emo band and ignoring expectations.

PAT KING
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After the introduction of streaming platforms like Spotify and the constant barrage of promotion through social media, the conversation between fans and bands has changed from "Have you heard this great album?" to "Where is the new album?" It can be an unfortunate feeding frenzy for artists these days, where the hungry customer always knows that there is always another kitchen open when another one closes down for repairs. The highly influential Chicago band American Football was able to avoid this kind of pressure from fans by playing it slow from the very beginning.

Formed in 1997, the band released one self-titled album that inspired countless bands with their slowcore-meets-emo sound. After calling it quits in 2000, that album only swelled in importance. Fans were dying for a reunion, and they got their wish in 2014, as the band announced they would be getting back together for a string of shows. The tour went so well that the band decided to get back into the studio in 2016 to release a new album. But after the wait, did fans welcome a new addition to an already perfect legacy with open arms?

By most accounts, the second self-titled release was a success to all who heard it. Well, perhaps not to the band's lead singer-songwriter, Mike Kinsella. "I think we thought the songs on 'LP2' were good, but we thought we hurried everything. Literally and figuratively," says Kinsella.

Kinsella and the band

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toured that album extensively but felt as though the pressure of delivering on the folklore of the band had perhaps muddied the waters a little bit and that they would need to recapture their inspiration in a more purposeful way. Released last March, the band's third self-titled record does exactly that, with eight elegant and sprawling songs that capture the same captivating emotional feel that pulled fans in all of those years ago.

"I think, in hindsight, we did feel pressure on the second one and I think we were sort of caving to it a little bit," says Kinsella, regarding the band's newfound sense of purpose. "We didn't realize people had listened to the band or cared about the band and then all of a sudden we found out a lot of people did. Then we had people telling us all of these ways to make a lot of people happy. As much as we think we're above that, I think it did influence what we were doing to some extent. We weren't as satisfied creatively as we thought we could have been or thought we would be. Going into the next one, we all agreed [to ask], 'What are the things we want to do and what are the things that interest us?'

The new record bursts with possibilities as it contains new textures and instruments the band had never dared to use before to color their songs. Furthermore, the band enlisted the talents of three special female guest vocalists — Hayley Williams of Paramore, Elizabeth Powell of Land of Talk, and Rachel Goswell of Slowdive — to introduce a new cast of characters into the band's traditionally insular world.

In the five years since the band has become active again, they have managed to do the unthinkable: They have transitioned from riding the excitement of a reunion tour to creating music that feels as vital as their younger contemporaries who may be benefiting from the trail they blazed all of those years earlier. Of course, none of this is lost on Kinsella, who views all of this as a complete surprise.

"It's funny, because it took us all by complete surprise when it all first happened in 2014. Then at some point, when we were making the second record, we kind of fell for it," explains Kinsella. "We were, like, 'Oh my god, this is so cool. We're in this popular band!' I spent 30 years being in not-popular bands [laughs]. I think there was maybe a little backlash. Maybe it was more reunion stuff than we thought it was. I think we thought it was going to sustain itself as, like, 'This is cool, a lot of people care.' But maybe a lot of people care, as it turns out, because it wasn't supposed to happen, you know? So we went and did this record and were, like, 'Well, if we're not beholden to these fans, let's just write the music we want and let's proceed assuming that we're not a popular band and are some band that just likes hanging out with each other.' We're kind of starting over. We feel like a new band!"

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HELEN SLOAN / HBO

Game of groans: Take a local workshop, write your own epic tale if you're so damn smart

Learn the tools and tricks to writing a better ending to HBO's late-"knight" show, "Game of Thrones."

NATE HOMAN
letters@metro.us

Everyone's a critic.

A TV show about dragons which killed off innumerable beloved characters like a plague somehow stayed relevant for eight seasons on HBO, and yet over 8 million people have signed a petition to make the writers rewrite the entire season.

A dragon-owning descendent of a maniacal tyrant showed her true (and predictable) colors and killed a bunch of innocent people while sacking a city, and people were somehow perplexed. Why wouldn't she? Does anyone else own a dragon? No? Exactly. No one can stop her from her veering into the realm of madness. Why not let tyranny take the wheel?

This came in the wake of an incredibly tepid attempt at topping the Battle of Helm's Deep for most epic hold-the-fort battle scenes. Jon Snow shanking Daenerys Targaryen mid-kiss was only poignant because a milquetoast, neutral-good character was tested beyond measure and committed a fatal act of domestic assault in the name of duty. The other surviving characters went in the direction destiny would have predicted, and the one-eared wolf was the real victor in all of this.

So, dear reader, we at Metro challenge you to a duel with a weapon far mightier than a sword. Sign up for one of these local writing courses and write a better ending to this epic. Or better yet, come up with something original instead of trying to slay trolls in the comments sections.

PHILLY: Philadelphia Writers Workshop offers a fun, structured way for beginners, published authors and avid writers to write fiction, poetry, nonfiction, memoir, essays, plays and screenplays in the company of other writers. Attend a Philadelphia Writers Meetup to review work, trade literary tips and make friends; all writers and should-be writers are welcome. Mighty Writers is a free writing program for students ages 7 to 17 who want to develop reading and writing skills.

We wish you the best on your journey. Always tell the Gods of the Passive Voice, "Not today," and remember: When using a pen, stick the pad with the pointy end.

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4 Fun things to do in the Lehigh Valley

Explore breweries, tour a guitar factory and more.

MADELINE PRESLAND
letters@metro.us

DISCOVER LEHIGH VALLEY

Looking for day trip destinations this summer? The charming Lehigh Valley is the perfect location for a day or short weekend trip. The region has so much to do (and taste) in so little time. Here are four things to do in the Lehigh Valley.

Beer tasting
The Lehigh Valley takes beer very seriously. There are 10 microbreweries in the area, so you can create your own brewery tour to try their traditional brews, or get something a little different. Don't miss sampling mead (a libation brewed with honey) at The Colony Meadery (905 Harrison St., Allentown), or do a cider tasting at Hardball Cider (805 Orchard Rd., Mt. Bethel). Two Rivers Brewing Company (542 Northampton St., Easton) has 10 rotating draught beers and a full kitchen serving brunch, lunch and dinner. The brewery's food specialties include several frites and poutine dishes.

Martin Guitar factory tour
Go behind the scenes to see where and how some of the best acoustic guitars are handcrafted in the Lehigh Valley. Each guitar requires more than 300 steps to go from rough lumber to a beautiful instrument, all in the same building. Stop by the Pickin' Parlor to strum a tune on high-end or limited edition Martin guitars. Free tours are conducted Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
720 Lehigh Valley Mall, Whitehall, martinguitar.com, free

Explore the Lehigh Valley Wine Trail
Summer is the perfect season to plan a day trip just for wine tastings. Follow your nose to eight family-owned vineyards in the area along the Lehigh Valley Wine Trail. Make sure you try Chambourcin wines, made with the region's signature grape. These wines are usually similar to a pinot noir, and pair well with chocolate and cheese. Vineyards include Galen Glen Winery (255 Winter Mountain Dr., Andreas) and Blue Mountain Vineyards & Cellars (7627 Grape Vine Dr., New Tripoli). Tasting prices and policies vary, but most wineries in the area charge $5 per person.

Easton Farmers Market
The Lehigh Valley has a rich history with its famous seasonal market. The Easton Farmers Market in Centre Square is the oldest open-air market in the country, with traditions dating back to the 1700s. Summer is the perfect time to go, with more than 30 vendors selling local produce, artisan cheese and all kinds of prepared foods. The farmers market is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday until December.

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At Storage Sense, 1000 S Easton Rd, Wyncote, PA 19095 (215-886-9185) will hold a public auction. The auction will take place on Storagetreasures.com. Items will be sold to the highest bidder for cash on May 13th - May 24th, 2019 at 12:30pm.

The following units contain household items, boxes and bins, furniture and/or personal goods, tables, mattress/box spring and many other items.

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PUNCH MEDIA

Everything you need to know about Art in the Age's Dandejack pop-up launch

Celebrate local craft spirits in Old City this Friday.

MADELINE PRESLAND
letters@metro.us

If you're in the mood to try something new this weekend, head to Art in the Age (116 N. 3rd St.) to sample a brandy flavored with dandelion root.

The beverage boutique is collaborating with British gastropub The Dandelion (124 S. 18th St.) and forager Food Hedge to celebrate the launch of Dandejack. The new spirit from Art in the Age is an aged apple brandy distilled with the dandelion root and local maple syrup. Art in the Age knows how to launch their spirits in style, and will host a Dandejack party on May 31 at their tasting room and store in Old City. The party is free and open to the public with pay-as-you-go cocktails.

Dandelion root is an unsung ingredient in spring cooking, appearing in drinks and salads to balance sweeter flavors. Though gardeners tend to view this plant as a pesky weed, all parts of the plant are useful and flavorful.

"Botanists consider dandelions to be herbs," said forager Heather McMonnies of Food Hedge in a press release. "Throughout history, people have used the leaves, stem, flower and root of the dandelion for medicinal purposes."

The Dandejack release party will incorporate dandelion flavors in a number of ways, including snacks from the aptly named Dandelion pub in Rittenhouse. Staples such as their signature burger and fish and chips are on the menu throughout the year, but the rest of their dishes change based on seasonal produce and flavors. Executive Chef Liam Geoghegan will create a special menu emphasizing dandelion root as well as serving some classic dishes from his kitchen. Launch party dishes will include a dandelion-crusted root carpaccio, smoked salmon & trout pâté and a curated cheese plate to go with Dandejack cocktails.

For beverage pairings, Art in the Age mixologist Lee Noble will have a list of drinks highlighting Dandejack. Noble's creations will surprise you, but expect floral flavors and seeing how the spirit can work in a few different types of drinks. Guests will have the opportunity to balance drinking with learning how to use dandelion root. McMonnies will be there to share her knowledge on how to incorporate the bitter herb into food, drinks and more.

Art in the Age Dandejack is a limited-edition spirit with only 200 bottles available. To learn more about the spirit and the launch party, visit artintheage.com.

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Sportradar exec Jake Williams breaks down the landscape.

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

SPORTRADAR

Data is everything when it comes to sports betting and as the legal industry in the United States evolves over the next few years, Sportradar has positioned itself to be at the forefront of the market.

Something as simple as Googling "Phillies Mets score" or getting up-to-the-second stats on your phone — Sportradar does the legwork. The company, based in Switzerland, is now also providing sports betting services to other companies that may be looking to jump into the sports betting fray.

In recent months, Sportradar has signed partnerships with FanDuel (with a goal of bringing livestreams of sporting events to FanDuel Sportsbook's betting app), the NBA, NHL, FOX Sports, NASCAR and MGM GVC.

"We're still in the infancy stage of legal sports betting in the U.S. but I think within six years you'll be looking at 75 percent of the entire population in the country being able to bet from their phones, at the bar, and at restaurants," Jake Williams, Sportradar's vice president of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, told MetroBet this week.

As far as his take on where things currently stand with sports betting in the Philly-New York-New Jersey area, Williams says that he is "optimistically skeptical" that sports betting at retail locations will be available in the state of New York by the end of the year. The online aspect in Pennsylvania has been frustrating for consumers for sure, but Williams says that it's not as simple as flipping a switch.

"To have a sportsbook up and running, to have to go through the rigorous testing of each app, to make sure people are only betting within state lines, to make sure you're able to authenticate each person betting with a driver's license or the last four digits of your Social Security number, it's a lot. It's not an easy task," Williams told MetroBet. "New Jersey was an outlier. They had most everything set up even before the [May 2018 Supreme Court] ruling."

The bettor vs. the non-bettor

Williams says that people who bet on sports and people who don't bet on sports are different consumers when it comes to watching a sporting event on TV.

"What we've found in similar markets to the U.S. is that the betting fan who watches streams on a sportsbook platform on their PC or phone, they're only watching four or five minutes of a stream," Williams said. "They'll make in-game bets and once that bet is satisfied — like which team will get to 20 points first in an NBA game — they'll close their computer and move on to another bet or something else entirely. It's different than the guy who's watching an NFL Sunday on his couch for three or four hours."

TWEET OF THE DAY

Awful
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In the mammoth Disney/Fox deal, Disney actually ended up acquiring Fox's stake in DraftKings.

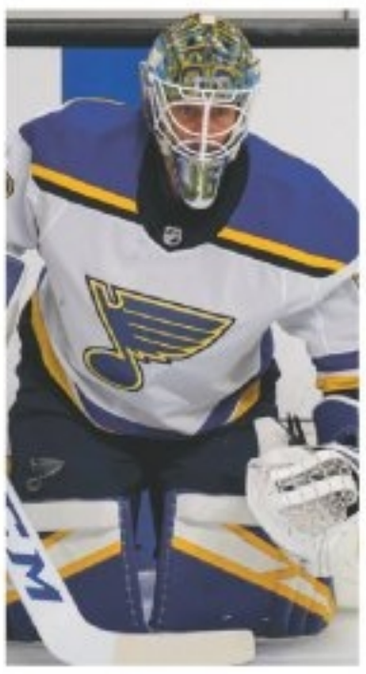
Best bets

NHL, NBA betting previews

Sharks at Blues
Puckline: Sharks +1.5 goals (-210), Blues -1.5 goals (+180)
Betting Total: 5.5 goals (Over EVEN, Under -120)
San Jose's star defenseman, Erik Karlsson, has apparently re-aggravated a groin injury that's limited him throughout the season. He was held to 3:03 minutes of ice time in the last two periods of Game 5 after missing some shifts in Game 4. Forwards Tomas Hertl and Joe Pavelski were the victims of some borderline-legal high hits and also made early exits.

Martin Jones has been struggling between the pipes for the Sharks of late, and he put forth one of his worst efforts of the playoffs in Game 5. St. Louis' top line forwards, Jaden Schwartz and Vladimir Tarasenko, beat him early and often. Schwartz recorded a hat trick, making him the first player with two three-goal games in one postseason since the Red Wings' Johan Franzen did it in 2008. San Jose looks spent, so go with the Blues to close it out at home.
The play: Blues puckline

Bucks at Raptors
Moneyline: Bucks -135, Raptors +115
Betting Total: 216 points
The Bucks' best three players, Eric Bledsoe, Khris Middleton and Giannis Antetokounmpo, combined for just 32 points on Sunday, shooting a miserable 23 percent from the field and just 13 percent from beyond the arc.



Kawhi Leonard was the hero once again for Toronto, notching 36 points while playing more than 52 minutes as his teammates fouled out around him. He appeared to be dealing with leg discomfort, however.

Expect a big bounce-back effort from the Bucks, who looked vastly superior in Games 1 and 2, especially if Leonard is at less than 100 percent.
The play: Bucks -2.5

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NHL

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SPORTS

Could Sixers come away with Klay?

Some potential departures this summer could see Klay Thompson available for the 76ers' taking.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Rumors are already flying around the Philadelphia 76ers and their season hasn't even been over for two weeks.

The question of Ben Simmons' fit alongside Joel Embiid has some suggesting that the 76ers should look into trading the All-Star point guard for LeBron James.

While some are off dreaming of asinine hypotheticals, free agency is a much larger issue for Sixers management. Philadelphia is facing a summer in which it could lose Jimmy Butler, Tobias Harris and JJ Redick. That's three-fifths of its starting five.

Butler ushered in some hysteria from Sixers fans when he thanked Philadelphia fans on Instagram. That could suggest that he'll be heading elsewhere once free agency starts up on July 1.

Harris, like Butler, will be looking for max money, which could come in at around the $190 million mark over five years.

Add the fact that Joel Embiid is making $146 million and Ben Simmons is due up for a monster extension soon, and it will be difficult for the Sixers to keep everyone.

One would have to figure that Butler and Harris are the priorities compared to Redick. Philadelphia gave up a ton of assets for both players this season and it would be a huge blow if neither stayed.

Klay Thompson (11) is one of a number of big-name free agents on the market this summer. GETTY IMAGES

If the Sixers were to get creative, though — especially if Butler leaves — they could also renounce Redick and come away with approximately $30 million in cap space this summer. That should be enough for a max salary contract to ease the loss of Butler.

The perfect candidate for that max salary slot could be Golden State Warriors sharpshooter Klay Thompson, who is reportedly unhappy playing second fiddle to Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant.

The soon-to-be-free-agent had eerily similar 3-point shooting numbers compared to Redick during the regular season. Thompson hit 241-of-599 3's, good for a 40.2 percent mark while Redick was 39.7 percent from downtown (240-of-605).

It was a down season for Thompson, who is one of the most feared 3-point shooters in the game after shooting 44 percent from beyond the arc last season. Entering a Sixers offense where he would be the main threat from deep would help stretch the floor for an offense that is looking to find the right pieces to allow Simmons and Embiid to flourish simultaneously.

Getting such a player like Thompson would allow the Sixers to remain as one of the favorites in the Eastern Conference, and the invaluable championship experience would only help change the culture at Wells Fargo Center.

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BRYCE HARPER'S HUGE WEEKEND PORTENDS A GREAT SUMMER FOR PHILS

THE SPORTS PROFESSOR

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Bryce Harper is slowly getting back on track after a big weekend. GETTY IMAGES

As sports fans, we should be trained to take the long view. Early impressions can be deceiving — just ask those among us who bought into the fool's gold of Dom Brown or Bobby Hoying. A player prematurely declared a bust can wind up hoisting the Lombardi Trophy, a la Brandon Graham or Zach Ertz.

Patience may be antithetical to the guy sitting in the bleachers, but it really is the wise approach.

Which brings us, of course, to Bryce Harper.

After entering into a 13-year, $330 million marriage with the Phillies, Harper had a rough early stretch in South Philly. He teased the locals with three homers in his first four games and then fell into a frightening slump, batting just .187 with four homers over the next 40 days. Raise your hand here if you're guilty of having early doubts. A few fans — and let me stress the word few — even started booing down at the ballpark, which allowed lazy national media types to drag out their Philly-fans-as-troglodytes tropes.

But overall, I think most locals got it. Philadelphia fans are more patient than we used to be — at least, we're way less miserable. And most knew it was just a matter of time before Harper's game awoke.

It did — with a bang — over the weekend. In the three-game sweep over Colorado, Harper had four extra-base hits and raised his slugging percentage 46 points. On Saturday he blasted a homer conservatively measured at 466 feet over the batter's eye in center field. And on Sunday, he won the game with a 404-foot three-run bomb into the bullpen off lefty specialist Mike Dunne.

Like most sluggers, Harper can be streaky. Phils manager Gabe Kapler, always an optimist, projected this weekend's awakening portends a great period for his right fielder.

"I think the home run that he hit to center field [Saturday] was the turning point and the moment where he started to feel more like Bryce," Kapler said. "We all knew this kind of performance was coming. With his star power, he has the ability to transcend the game."

Thing is, Harper has done everything right except getting hot at the plate since arriving in Philadelphia. His defense in right field is a revelation of hustle and shoestring catches. Fans in Washington may wonder why he didn't lay out for balls during his seven seasons as a National but he's the second coming of Aaron Rowand in red pinstripes.

By all accounts, the new guy is a terrific teammate and leader. The Phils needed an injection of clubhouse energy after last season's collapse and Harper (along with fellow newcomers Andrew McCutchen, J.T. Realmuto and Jean Segura) has provided that.

And, he's been marvelous with media and fans, which counts in this city more than most. Rather than get McNabb-ish about some heckling, Harper said, "I'd boo me, too," based on the desultory early results.

Look, there are fair concerns with Harper's strikeout rate (29 percent), especially against sliders. But this is going to be a long marriage, with its share of ups and downs. Even while playing poorly for a month, Harper contributed by getting on base — his 34 walks lead the NL.

The series against Colorado showed that great things are about to come. The Phils have a 2.5-game lead in the East, where only the Braves look able to give them a fight.

We're poised to have a great summer. And Bryce Harper will be right in the middle of it. Just let yourself be patient and allow it to unfold.

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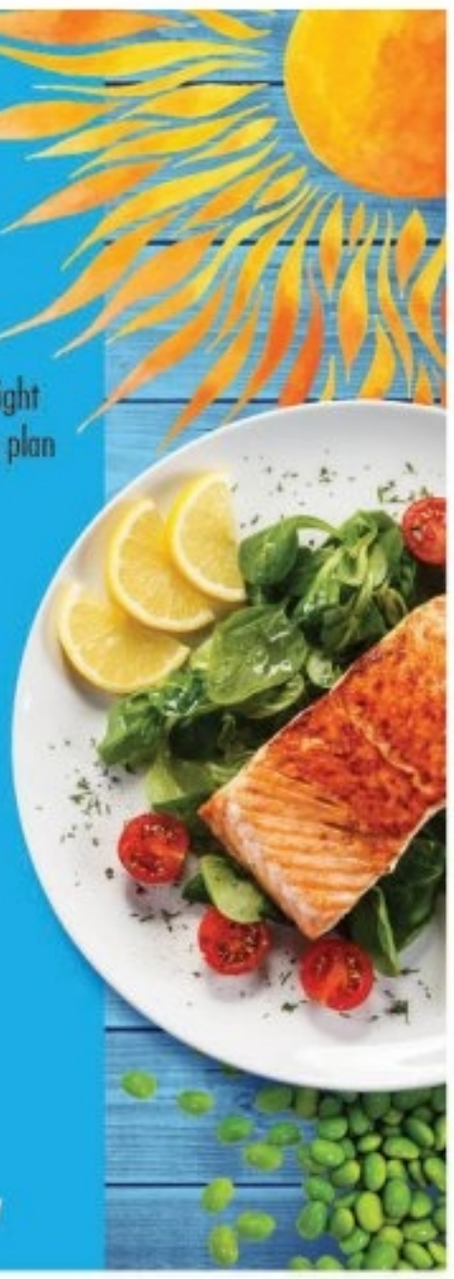

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Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, April Term, 2019, No. 4633. Notice is hereby given that on May 1, 2019, the petition of Darren Veasna Boeun, was filed praying for a decree to change his name to Darren Veasna Huang. The Court has fixed June 11, 2019 at 1:00 PM, in Room No. 691, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

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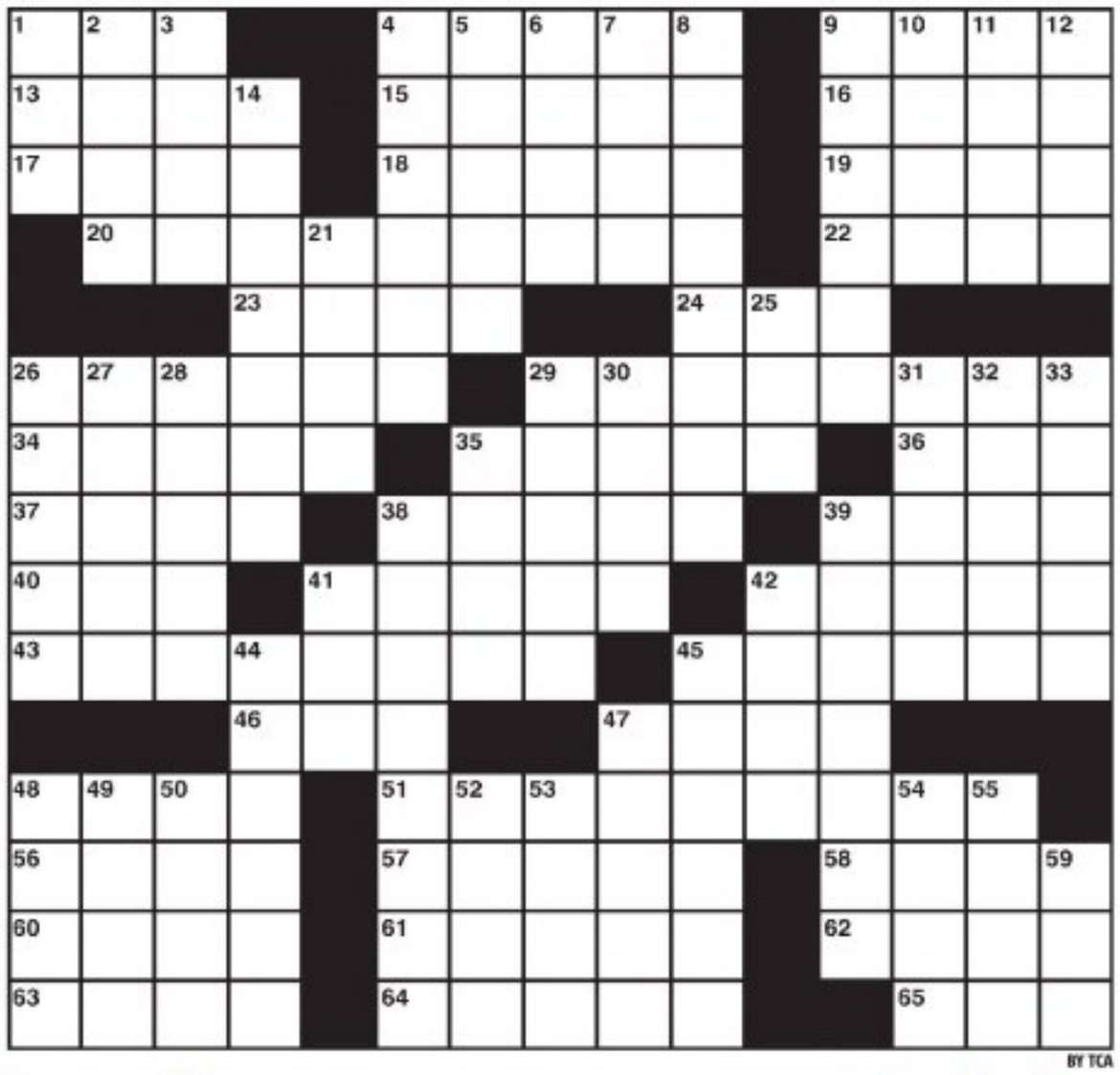
13 Meander
15 Barcelona buddy
16 Sickly-looking
17 Casino game
18 __ hoot; care
19 Jungle beast
20 Illogical
22 Chances
23 Actor Sinise
24 Conway or Curry
26 Tempests
29 Tibia
34 Attempts
35 Thick board
36 Have a bug
37 Small brook
38 Fire bell's noise
39 Mr. Flintstone
40 Broke one's fast
41 Candid
42 Portion
43 Selling on the street
45 Cattleman
46 Mai tai ingredient
47 "How __ you!"; cry of outrage
48 Walk the floor
51 Suggest indirectly
56 Da Vinci's paintings
57 Wanderer
58 Decays
60 __ and cons
61 Make amends
62 Ridicule
63 Catch sight of
64 Permissible
65 "...Hallowed be __ name..."

DOWN
1 Annoy
2 Namesakes of a Stooge
3 Window piece
4 Basketball players
5 Post or Brontë
6 Shabby nightclub
7 Grows old
8 Cooking in an oven, often
9 With __; confidently
10 Bug spray
11 Clumsy fellow
12 Female birds
14 No purebred
21 Houston & Elliott
25 Printer owner's purchase
26 Satchel feature
27 Like a cliché
28 Lubricated
29 Street talk
30 Baseball's Aaron
31 Rowed
32 Female relative
33 Firstborn of two
35 Think ahead
38 Felon
39 Gun
41 Reason to call in sick
42 Neighbor of Bolivia
44 Like formal wear
45 "Messiah" composer
47 Prince Harry's mum
48 Leo XIII or Pius X
49 Broadcasts
50 Clippety-__
52 Short letter
53 Air pollution
54 Tap the horn
55 Carve in glass
59 __ blue; pastel color



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C	U	B	U	B	R	N	N	O	T
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C	S	I	■	W	I	N	D	Y	■	U	P	S	E	T
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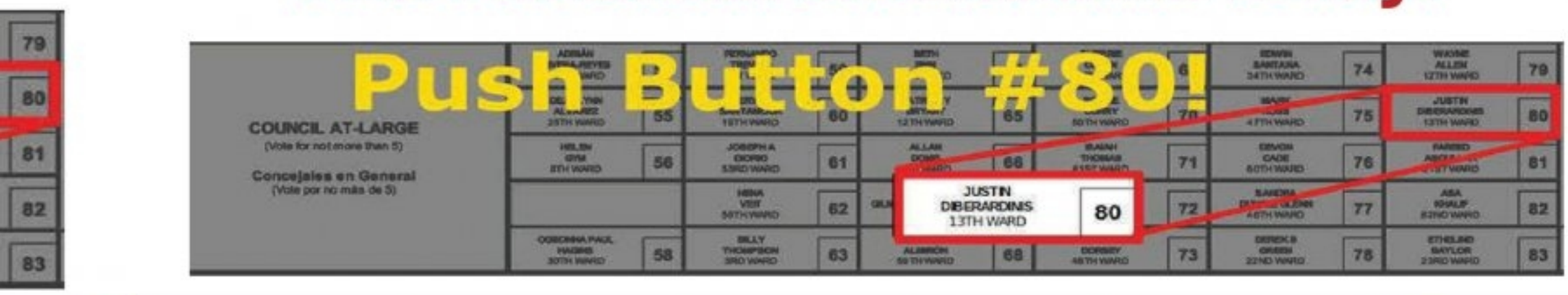
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